



A CHINESE FARMER HARROWING A RICE FIELD.

## IN THE COUNTRY OF THE GREEN WATERS

**TSINGPOO** is a walled city in the midst of wide-spreading rice fields about thirty miles from Shanghai. The whole country around is intersected by countless creeks and canals, which give its name, "Green Waters," to the district and which make communication easy with the numerous outlying towns and villages. All traveling is done by boat. There are no roads. The foot-paths are impassable in bad weather.

Some itinerant preaching was done in the district by Archdeacon Thomson and others many years ago, but the Church was not in a position to occupy the field until 1902, when the Rev. J. L. Rees of St. Peter's Church, Shanghai, opened an out-station in Tsingpoo city. A

catechist visited it once a week. Occasionally one of the American clergy was able to pay a brief visit.

**W**hen the Rev. C. F. McRae took charge of the Tsingpoo district in 1904, the work had spread to Sungkiang and to Bak-ngauh-kaung, two large, important towns. In another year the growth of the work made it necessary to send a Chinese clergyman to live in Tsingpoo with a catechist to help him. The Rev. Mr. Daung, one of our most efficient presbyters, and Catechist Tsang were chosen.

In 1906, Mr. Daung was transferred to Sungkiang, where we have since been able, through the generosity of an American Churchman, to purchase a large house for the use of the mission. His place at Tsingpoo taken by the Rev. N. T. Ng, a recent graduate of St. John's University, who had served some months as Mr. Daung's assistant.

**D**uring the last few years most encouraging progress has been made. Work has been opened in five other towns of the neighborhood, where weekly services are held in rooms rented and furnished as chapels by the people themselves; so that where seven years ago the Church had no work, there are now eight places where the Gospel is preached and the Sacraments are administered regularly.

In the last four years the number of the baptized and of communicants has more than doubled. There are now on our books the names of more than 1000 people who have expressed their desire for baptism.

The district has sent ten men to the Catechists' School, of whom two, Mr. Dzau and Mr. Waung, are now assisting the Rev. Mr. Ng in Tsingpoo, and also several women to the Training School for Bible-women.

**T**he intensive development of the work it is not so easy to tabulate. There are good congregations, where church-going is not always easy. The people come frequently to the Holy Communion. Voluntary prayer-meetings and Bible-study classes are held. Numbers of Bibles and Christian books and leaflets are bought and read. Opium-smokers have been enabled to break off the habit. Many glimpses of real religion are given us, sometimes where we have least suspected it. All these outward signs make it plain that the Spirit of God is at work in their hearts.

**T**he work among the women is in charge of Miss Ida N. Porter. For the last five years she has lived in Tsingpoo—the only Western woman in the midst of an alien population, to some extent hostile and for the most part offensively curious. One has to experience it to realize to the full its loneliness. At first the only place open to her was an attic over the small rented room we were using for a chapel. Later on she was invited by the wife of one of our Christians, Mrs. Dzau, to make her home in their family, and it was not till the winter of 1907 that she was able to move into a house of her own.

Besides her evangelistic work, Miss Porter has a girls' day-school with about fifty pupils. Having had some experience as a trained nurse, she is constantly called on to exercise her skill in medicine. The more serious cases she sends on, when possible, to our hospitals in Shanghai. She has the help of an efficient Bible-woman, Mrs. Koo. Together they visit the out-stations, calling on the women of our Christian families and holding special meetings for



TSINGPOO SNAPSHOTS.—1. THE STAFF OF WORKERS AT TSINGPOO; MISS PORTER SITS IN THE CENTRE. 2. THE GIRLS' SCHOOL AT TSINGPOO. 3. THE CLERGY AND CATECHISTS WHO ARE WORKING AT TSINGPOO AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD; MR. MC RAE STANDS IN THE REAR. 4. THE MISSION HOUSEBOAT USED FOR VISITS TO TSINGPOO.



MISS PORTER AND SOME OF HER TSINGPOO CHILDREN.

To GEORGE C. THOMAS, *Treasurer*  
281 FOURTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

Enclosed find \$ \_\_\_\_\_, my gift to help complete the Building Fund of the Tsingpoo mission and to extend the Church in that region.

Name.....

Street .....

Parish .....

Town and State .....

them and for any other women who will come. In Tsingpoo there are always visits to be paid and guests to be received and instructed. The school-girls are given regular religious instruction and many of them also attend the Sunday-school. Miss Porter's house is large enough to accommodate the Girls' School, the Bible-woman, and the women from the out-stations who come to her from time to time for fuller instruction than she can give them during her brief visits to their homes.

**T**he settled policy of the China mission is self-support as early as practicable. Self-support has been attained in some of the older stations, but the Church in China is constantly reaching out into new fields and for many years to come must look to the home Church for help in this work. In the Tsingpoo district, the salaries of the workers and their traveling expenses are paid by appropriations from the Board of Missions. It is only when land has to be bought and buildings erected to meet the growing demands of the work that special contributions are asked for, and then only to supplement amounts given in China.

**We must have \$1200 to complete the building fund of \$3000 for the Church, School-house and Mission residence. The Tsingpoo people gave the land.**

It will soon become necessary to enlarge the compound in Tsingpoo and erect other buildings for the boys' day-school and quarters for one of the catechists.

Two of the out-stations, Bak-ngauh-kaung and Yang-siang-kyung, will soon be ready for church buildings, and the Church in America will have to help them.

☛ Copies of this leaflet may be had in any quantity by asking the Corresponding Secretary, 281 Fourth Avenue, New York, for leaflet No 267.

1. Jan. 1909 5 M. C. P.